



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Janice McGeachin
President of the Senate
Idaho Legislature
Boise, ID 83720

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Madam President,

I hereby advise you that I have transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate Bill, to wit:

S 1257

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 2:40 p.m. on February 18, 2020.

Idaho respects the constitutional right to counsel and manifests that support with action. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Public Defense Commission has awarded \$9,121,000 to counties to improve indigent defense. With those funds, counties are hiring 34 additional defending attorneys and 12 support staff across Idaho to allow for reasonable defending attorney workloads, recruiting and retaining experienced attorneys, providing representation from a person's first appearance before a court, and providing the same counsel at critical hearings in a defendant's case.

My hope is that the Legislature will give the Public Defense Commission greater flexibility so that a large figure in Fiscal Year 2021 does not inefficiently revert to the General Fund, but rather is directed to its original appropriated purpose – improving the state's public defense system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Secretary of State Lawrence Denney